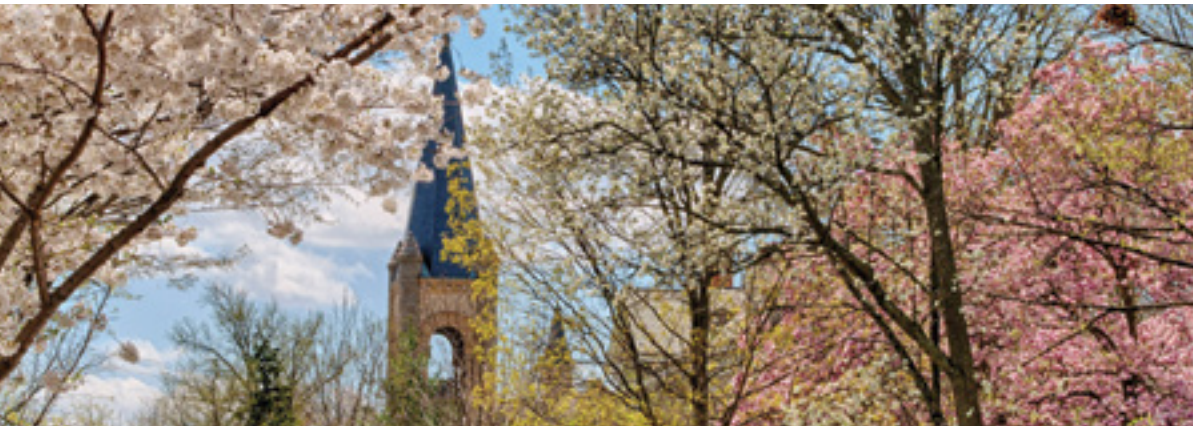




City of **Wyoming**

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Come for the charm, stay for the friendships

Best of Wyoming 2015

- Our City was ranked No. 25 on the Business Insider e-news magazine list of the top 50 suburbs in the United States.
- Wyoming was rated as one of the top six suburbs in Greater Cincinnati by Cincy Magazine.
- Received Ohio Auditor of State Award for a Clean Audit
- Received Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- Standard and Poor's AAA Bond Rating (the highest possible) reaffirmed
- Received the Best City Recycling Rate Award from the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District
- Wyoming City School District was ranked as the No. 1 public school district in Ohio, according to 2014 performance index scores from state standardized testing.
- In only 12 months, the City attracted 1,700 followers on social media site Nextdoor. Subscribe at Nextdoor.com.
- Wyoming's Facebook page has over 2,500 fans from 27 different countries. To subscribe, like Wyoming on Facebook.com.
- The City's Twitter feed has 522 followers from five different countries. Sign up at twitter.com/cityofwyomingoh.



Wyoming's village is the setting for many family-centered festivities throughout the year.



Youngsters review bicycle safety at Wyoming's All Kids Carnival.



The annual July 4th holiday parade draws friends together to celebrate America's birthday.



The City's multiple recreation facilities offer many ways to have fun with your friends.

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The annual Wyoming Art Show draws unique talent and large crowds every spring. It is one of the City's most popular events.

Wyoming Citizens Always Eager to Engage for Their Community

If I had to pick one word to describe 2015 in Wyoming, it would be engagement. This could be seen in many different expressions throughout the year – from the Civic Center forums, to the town hall-style discussions about the proposed Springfield Pike project, to the many new social events and activities that brought people together for fun. Wyoming residents are proud of their community and are always ready to come together to share their friendship and their ideas on how to make our City a better place to live. I love that about our community.

The sense of pride in place that is a hallmark of Wyoming is also shared by all of us in the City administration. We work diligently to uphold the standards of service, community, and integrity that have made Wyoming stand out as an exemplary place to call home for many years.

I invite you to read our 2015 Annual Report to see the highlights of this past year. They include new social events, like Yappy Hour and the Exotic Wheels and Wine Show, as well as a visit by a Hollywood movie production company to feature our unique downtown in a television film. In addition, there are new programs in the Recreation Department, like our partnership with Springfield Township for more senior activities, and our new fire and police initiatives that help keep our community one of the safest in the region. There is also news about increased home building activity and business development, signs of the thriving life in our City.

Citizen involvement is another important reason Wyoming continues to be one of the most desirable places to live in all of Ohio. In 2015, there were at least 16,300 hours of time dedicated to the City of Wyoming by resident volunteers. This translates into a minimum of \$376,000 in value.

Your ideas and input are vital as we work to create the kinds of events, projects and improvements you want to see in your community. Please make your voice heard through the City's E-Gov Action Line and at wyomingohio.gov, as well as through events such as Coffee with the City Manager and the Community Engagement Forums. Keeping Wyoming great is truly a team effort! We are committed to working with all of you to maintain Wyoming's status as one of the best places in America to call home.

It is our sincere pleasure to present to you the **2015 Annual Report**.



Lynn Tetley
City Manager



Wyoming hosts one of the area's most unique exotic car shows every fall.



The enthusiastic support of volunteers helps make Wyoming an exceptional community.

"A Christmas Melody" – Movie Making in Wyoming

Hollywood came to Wyoming last fall, as a Hallmark Christmas production rolled into town transforming our village streets into the snow-covered, fictional small town of Silver Falls.

Famed diva Mariah Carey, a star of the film, definitely caused a stir as she roamed the

the location for the film, and she knew as soon as she read the script that our fair City was the ideal backdrop for the film's Christmas fairytale storyline.

Besides the City's natural good looks, Streeter says it offers filmmakers an abundance of ideal



village with her entourage. But word has it that it was actually she who was star-struck – by the friendly people in Wyoming and by the natural picturesque and gracious charm of our City.



Jane Streeter

"She thought it was perfect," says Jane Streeter, an independent location scout and manager and a 2010 Wyoming High School grad. "It was an easy sell."

Streeter was the woman behind the production executives' decision to feature Wyoming as

amenities, like a quaint downtown village and Victorian-era homes, a historic middle school, and an accommodating City administration who worked with the production crew to meet its needs without sacrificing services to residents. The City took care of even the smallest details the film crew requested, including removing greenery from our street sign flower pots (since the movie takes place in winter). Bigger services, like temporarily closing roads for filming, and taking down signs that identified Wyoming by name, were also handled efficiently.

"Every step of the way, people were so helpful," says Streeter. "The City (administration) was great. They were very flexible with the constant



schedule changes and demands, and the lines of communication were always open. Mariah was incredibly impressed with Wyoming."

"Over 50 percent of the movie was filmed here," she says. "That's a testament to how great everything was."

see Wyoming being recognized for being the incredible community we all know and love."

Wyoming Pastry Shop was the site of much of the filming. It was "redecorated" to look like a traditional diner, and Carey reportedly liked it so much she purchased items from the shop to send



From left to right:

The village was transformed into a winter holiday postcard for "A Christmas Melody," the Hallmark movie starring Mariah Carey and Lacey Chabert.

Wyoming's historic homes, quaint village, and tree-lined streets are prized by filmmakers as the "ideal small town" setting. Our own village bakery became the "Silver Falls Diner" for the movie.

During October, the film crew drew curious onlookers as it created a fictional Christmas setting in Wyoming's business district.

Besides the pride of being listed in the credits as the locale of the film, Wyoming was also paid for its professional services and individual sites were compensated for time and expenses. City Manager Lynn Tetley says the exposure and increased business activity were a boost to the community.

"The unique opportunity to have a movie filmed in our community is not only exciting, but also brings a lot of value to our businesses and residents," says Tetley. "A national production such as this puts a regional spotlight on our community that brings interested visitors and business patrons into town that might normally not visit. Wyoming was featured regularly in The Enquirer during the filming and in an episode of Entertainment Tonight. It is very nice to

home to friends and relatives. On her first visit to the bakery for a scouting trip, she bought a round of cookies for all the kids inside, says Streeter.

This is not the first time Wyoming has been featured in a Hollywood movie. Locations in town were also chosen for the film "Carol," released in December 2015. And the Disney holiday production "A Mom for Christmas" starring Olivia Newton-John was partially filmed here in 1990.

Streeter says it most certainly will not be the last time Wyoming will be featured in a movie, either.

"Everyone from (Hollywood) who sees Wyoming says it really is the perfect Hallmark town," she says. "They'll be back."

Trendsetting Restaurant Proud to be Located in Wyoming



L.R. Hunley and Doug Nawrocki, owners of Tēla Bar + Kitchen.



Tēla opened in 2015.

After years of management experience with brand-name restaurants, entrepreneurs L.R. Hunley and Doug Nawrocki know an establishment's location can be a make or break decision.

The two business partners say that's exactly why they chose to open Tēla Bar + Kitchen, their first ever independent venture, in Wyoming.

"I was managing Piccolo Wine Room in Glendale and we got a lot of patrons from Wyoming," says Hunley. "So when we came across this space (corner of Chestnut Ave. and Springfield Pike), we decided to take advantage of it."

Hunley says he and Nawrocki haven't regretted the move, as Tēla has drawn a strong local clientele in addition to food lovers from across the Greater Cincinnati area.

But there's more to the story than just the satisfaction of a full dining room, Hunley adds. As business owners, Hunley and Nawrocki had a lot of planning and preparation they needed to tackle before they could open their doors. The red tape of permits and zoning regulations can be daunting in some municipalities. But Wyoming City administration made it easy, he says, going above and beyond to ensure that the two men had what they needed to open with as little hassle as possible.

"They were great to work with," Hunley says. "Terry (Terry Vanderman, Community Development Director) and Lynn (Lynn Tetley, City Manager) were my main contacts. They had an open door policy and both were extremely responsive."

"If all our interactions with cities were as positive as the one we've had with Wyoming, I'd be happy to open restaurants all over the place," Hunley says.

The enthusiasm of community residents has meant a lot, too, he adds.

"We've been very happy with how the community has come out to support us," he says. "We were sensitive to the family atmosphere here and I think our style has really resonated with the people in Wyoming. From price point to product, I think we've hit the right mix."

While hot spots like Over-the-Rhine may get the hype, Hunley says he feels a community like Wyoming offers a unique set of qualities – historic charm, welcoming atmosphere, free parking, and convenience to traffic arteries – that are hard to find elsewhere.

"We feel we've hit something pretty special here," he says. "We wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

The Village Green Goes to the Dogs for Wyoming's First Yappy Hour

Wyoming's shady sidewalks and parks are a paradise for dog walkers, and our City counts many dog-owning families among its ranks. This year, for the first time, Wyoming offered a special event to give the dog lovers in town (and their pets) a chance to gather and socialize in one place – Yappy Hour.

During one warm evening in July, the Village Green became the site of the largest pet party ever hosted in the City as more than 150 dog lovers and their four-legged friends gathered for food, wine, beer, music, and dog treats.

"My daughter and I had a great time at the Yappy Hour," says Julie Jones, who owns two dogs, Lilly, part Pyrenees, and Lucy, a beagle mix. "In fact, she said to me afterwards that 'they should do Yappy Hour every month.'"

Pet-friendly events and businesses have skyrocketed

in popularity in recent years as dog owners dote more on their four-legged companions. Studies show a large percentage of dog owners treat their pet as an equal member of the family and lavish attention on them accordingly.

Recreation Director Rachel Leininger says the City wants to organize more recreation activities that allow dogs and their owners to enjoy themselves in unique ways.

"We are a pet-friendly city and we want dog lovers to be able to connect and enjoy their pets with events designed around their passion," says Leininger.

Wyoming resident Eric Miller, whose black lab, Grace, is a treasured member of the family and participates in dog therapy programs around Cincinnati, says dogs have a way of relaxing people and becoming social enablers.

"Dogs relieve stress," he says. "People are in a good state of mind when they're around their dogs. This kind of event is a great opportunity for everyone to get together in a fun and relaxing atmosphere with their pets."

Wyoming's Howling Pooch Parade is another popular event held each October for dogs and their families.

Look for more events like these in the future, says Leininger.



The first ever Yappy Hour drew Wyoming's dog lovers to the Village Green.

Additional Fitness Classes, Updated Youth and Senior Programming Implemented in 2015



The Family Aquatic Center is one of the City's most popular recreation facilities.

As one of the most widely-used services in the City, the Recreation Department offers Wyoming residents quality programs – from routine fitness to special events that draw crowds of hundreds – all while maintaining a cost-efficient operating model.

Fitness

With several new conditioning opportunities and instructors this year, the Recreation Center has expanded its fitness offerings to include popular training trends like Barre, P90X, and boxing classes. These have attracted loyal followers, and more new fitness classes are planned for 2016. Additional weekday evening child care hours and Saturday classes were added by popular demand.

To stay in-step with technology, the Recreation Center implemented MindBody Online, a mobile phone-friendly app and website that allows users to see class and instructor schedules, and register and pay for classes electronically.

Wyoming Recreation Center Renovation

The Wyoming Recreation Center will receive a major renovation starting in early 2016 that will expand its fitness room and move it upstairs across from the main desk. The room, which was the unfinished “multi-purpose room,” will be remodeled to include large windows for abundant natural light and views. The lobby area, upstairs bathrooms, and front desk/office areas will also be remodeled to make room for a new family bathroom and locker rooms near the fitness center upstairs. The project will provide a more spacious, inviting fitness center and will move the summer day camp and similar programs downstairs, providing a more secure environment for youth activities. The fitness center will remain open throughout the construction process.



Every year, hundreds of kids attend youth camps.

Youth and Adult Sports

As one of the most popular programs, Youth and Adult Sports attract about 2,000 participants every year. New in 2015 were an 18-and-up men's pick-up basketball league, co-ed adult volleyball, JumpStart Sports basketball programs for kids in preschool through second grade, and Ultimate Frisbee camp. In addition, grade and age eligibility requirements were enhanced in both youth golf and volleyball to allow more kids to participate. Coaches' clinics were added to provide training for volunteer athletic coaches.

The growing sport of Pickleball was also added to Wyoming's recreation options in 2015 as the City added courts at Hilltop Park, the A-Field tennis courts and the Recreation Center gymnasium. This popular, tennis-like game is attracting an enthusiastic following in our community and player groups are forming.

Youth Programs

This year the Recreation Department built on the strong foundation of youth programs with numerous new after-school classes and 17 new camps. New after-school options, now conveniently located at the Civic Center near the Middle School, include yoga, karate, crafts, and science classes. Other new classes added in 2015 include Lego Club, fitness classes for youth with disabilities, and ballet classes. In addition, the youth program included mini specialty camps, such as Home Alone Camp, Science Matters Camp, Young Rembrandts Camp, Volleyball Camp, several JumpStart Sports camps, Gymnastics/Cheerleading Camp, and several ballet camps.

The Recreation Center hosted another successful Summer Day Camp program in 2015 with an average of 98 kids per day attending camp over a period of ten weeks.

Special Events

Bringing Wyoming citizens together is one of the highest priorities for the Recreation Department, and several new events were added that drew big crowds. Two instant hits were the School's Out Summer Celebration and the Yappy Hour

dog social event. Hundreds of kids and their families flocked to the Family Aquatic Center for the School's Out party featuring a live DJ. More than 150 dogs and their owners gathered at the Village Green for the first ever Yappy Hour in July, featuring doggie-appropriate vendors, games and food. Also new in 2015 was the Free Wheeling Thru Wyoming bike ride for kids, which included bike safety and helmets from the Wyoming Police Department.

Senior Programs

The Recreation Department launched a unique partnership with Springfield Township to offer joint programming for seniors in both communities. This first-ever alliance with Springfield Township gave Wyoming seniors access to numerous enrichment opportunities at the Springfield Township Senior & Community Arts Center, and allowed Springfield Township seniors to use the Wyoming Recreation Center at a resident membership rate. Wyoming seniors can now sign up for art, educational, and fitness classes at the Springfield Township Senior Center, while Springfield Township seniors enjoy the features and benefits of the Wyoming Recreation Center.

Did You Know...

- The Recreation Center logs more than 100,000 visits each year, one of the most-used services in the City.
- Every year the City organizes at least 57 community and special events.
- More than 3,200 kids are enrolled in youth sports and enrichment programs through the Recreation Department.
- Seniors can join the Family Aquatic Center for a reduced resident membership rate for both individuals and couples.
- The Recreation Center offers the SilverSneakers program, which provides no-cost gym memberships to seniors whose health insurance offers this benefit.
- Wyoming added hundreds of new opportunities for seniors to participate in activities and classes throughout the year by partnering with the Springfield Township Senior & Community Arts Center.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.



*From left to right:
New senior programs
have been added through
a partnership with
Springfield Township.*

*The City introduced
pickleball courts to its
recreation options in 2015.*

Outreach Programs Launched to Help Keep Residents Safe

Safety is more than just responding to emergencies; it's also about preventing them. And preventing emergencies is an essential part of what makes a community desirable. The Wyoming Fire & EMS Department is committed to the mission of overall safety in the community and furthered this mission in 2015 by enacting two new safety initiatives that help to sustain the wellness of residents and avoid crises before they happen.

In July, the department launched Check Up with a Medic and Welcome Home, two brand new programs that bring department staff into contact with residents on a non-emergency level and offer citizens peace of mind about their health and security.

Check Up with a Medic provides vital sign monitoring, including blood sugar, twice a week for residents who want this important information about their health status. The service is available Monday morning, 9–11 a.m., and Wednesday afternoon, 4–6 p.m. in the training room at the Safety Services Facility, 600 Grove Ave.

Welcome Home offers in-home support to residents returning home from the hospital. A paramedic from Wyoming Fire & EMS will come to your home after a hospital discharge and help you to understand your discharge orders, which could include special instructions on follow-up medication or follow-up instructions. To schedule this service, call 513.679.4606.



National Night Out gives kids a chance to interact with City fire and police staff in a fun setting.



Continual training helps firefighters sharpen their skills for improved safety. In this drill, firefighters prepare for a controlled burn of a building set for demolition near the Recreation Center.

Right:
Fire Captain Cy Wilson

Far Right:
Richard Stratton
Volunteer firefighter and EMT



New Fire Captain

Longtime firefighter Cy Wilson was promoted to Fire Captain in June 2015. He has emphasized training efforts in the department and coordinated joint training with the Woodlawn, Reading, and Lincoln Heights fire departments.



Firefighters teach safety to City youth through special programs every year.

A potential future volunteer firefighter tries on some official gear for size.



Check Up with a Medic gives residents a chance to conveniently get their vital signs checked.

Did you know...

- The Wyoming Fire & EMS Department has 22 part-time paramedics and 33 volunteer firefighters.
- Wyoming residents enjoy high quality fire protection for just \$60.62 per person, per year. This is one of the lowest per capita tax rates in Hamilton County.
- In 2015 Wyoming Fire & EMS hosted:
 - 10 firehouse school tours
 - 20 fire drills and fire safety talks with schools, scout troops and for groups at the Recreation Center
 - Supported 12 community events, which included Touch-a-Truck and National Night Out.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.

Volunteer Expert Helps with Hazardous Materials

With rail car hazardous material accidents in the news, the Wyoming Fire & EMS Department has taken action to deal with such an emergency through expert help right here in our own community. Volunteer Richard Stratton, a former chemist at Procter & Gamble, has offered his talents to the department to develop

operating procedures for any potential hazardous material accidents or train derailments. Stratton has undergone extensive training to further his knowledge in tank car crude oil shipment and hazardous materials technician skills. Considering the train shipments that come through the area each day, this expertise is important.



Strong Relationships with Residents Part of Community Policing, Low Crime Rate

Creating a safe, inviting community requires dedicated efforts in policing. These efforts are not just about crime fighting, however. They include community outreach, effective communication and an emphasis on building strong relationships with Wyoming residents. These are precisely the reasons the Wyoming Police Department has been so effective at fostering a secure, worry-free environment in our community. And it's why our hometown is one of the safest, most livable suburbs in the country.

Getting to Know the People in Our Community

Reaching out to the community with events and ongoing activities is an important part of the Wyoming Police Department's pro-active approach to community policing. Each year the department hosts the Citizens Police Academy and Junior Police Camp to engage residents in this important safety mission. In addition, officers participate in fun, interactive events like the July 4th Muddy Pig, Wheel-a-Thon, May Fete, Fall Festival, Touch-a-Truck, and National Night Out—a county-wide event that allows kids to interact with officers and their police cars—and take part in other activities like Frisbee toss, a remote control car race, and an obstacle course.

Wyoming Police Department also uses social media, like Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, and City electronic newsletters, to keep residents informed about urgent safety issues plus educational news to help prevent break-ins and other crime.



Wyoming police get to know residents during National Night Out.

Professional Development

As police departments across the country come under increasing public scrutiny, it is essential that officer training keeps up with the latest trends in high quality policing. Wyoming has a history of commitment to policing excellence, which continued in 2015 with additional training. Officers averaged 60 hours of training with a minimum of 28 hours of legal update training. This included education in handling cultural diversity and sensitivity, a major issue making national headlines in the past year. In addition, officers received special training from the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition on dealing with issues associated with the recent heroin epidemic sweeping the region, including steps to treat a suspected overdose. Officers also completed instruction in firearms and taser qualifications, CPR and AED, media relations, community outreach, and leadership.

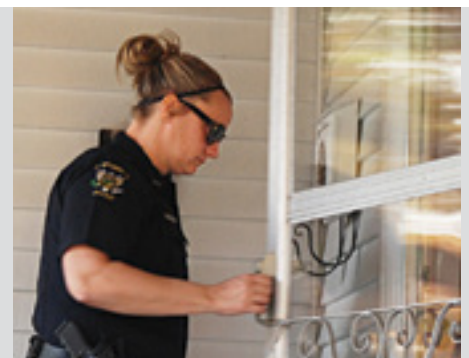
Safety Reminders

Keep cars locked.

Approximately 35 percent of thefts in Wyoming are from unlocked cars.

Be vigilant. Report suspicious activity to Wyoming Police immediately by calling 513.821.0141.

Follow police alerts through social media, such as Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter. For more information on how to sign up, go to **wyomingohio.gov**.



Residents can call for a vacation visit with the Away From Home program.

Did You Know...

The Wyoming Police Department provides these community services in addition to the more than 4,000 calls they respond to for individual safety issues.

Citizens Police Academy

Adults in Wyoming can spend several weeks with a Wyoming police officer learning about the job.

Junior Police Camp

Similar to the Citizens Police Academy, this program allows middle school youth to build relationships with officers.

Away From Home Program

Residents can have their home listed for a visit from an officer while they are away on vacation.

Lockout Assistance

Officers can help a resident gain access to a locked car.

Key File

Residents can put a house key on file at the Safety Services Facility to gain access if they are accidentally locked out.

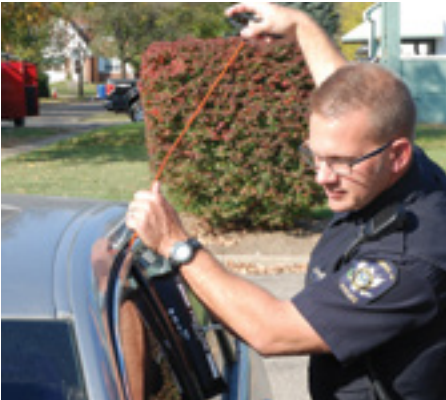
Prescription Drug Drop Off

This collection box in the lobby of the Safety Services Facility allows residents to safely dispose of old medication.

Solicitation Exclusion

Homeowners can list their address with the City to have it excluded from solicitors who apply for permits to go door-to-door. To request this service, email customerservice@wyomingohio.gov.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.



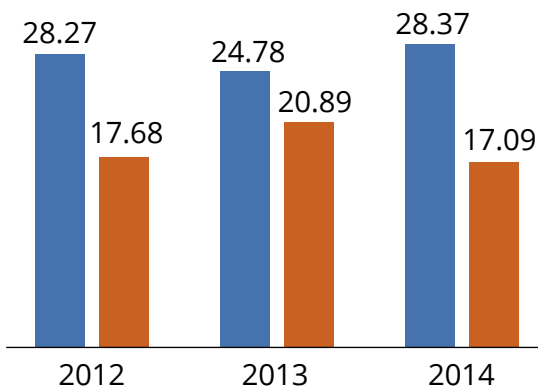
Locked out? Call the Wyoming Police Department for help.



On July 4th, police officers get down and dirty with residents during the annual Muddy Pig race.

Crimes per 1,000 Residents

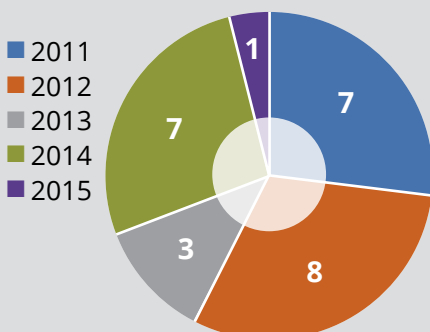
■ Average of communities similar to Wyoming*
■ Wyoming



*Similar communities include:

Clifton
East Walnut Hills
Hyde Park
Indian Hill
Madeira
Mariemont
Montgomery
Oakley
Terrace Park

Wyoming's Low Violent Crime Numbers



- 58 percent of Wyoming's violent crime numbers come from domestic violence cases where the victim knows the assailant.
- The City had 11 cases of violent crime in the last five years in which the offender was a stranger.
- In 2015 the City had one violent crime.

Development Activity Increases this Year With Uptick in New Home Construction, Business Openings

Development enhances our community and brings about business diversity, investment, and economic stimulation. In 2015, Wyoming's development activity saw a significant increase, with a 50 percent uptick in residential and institutional permit valuation. Six new homes were permitted, representing a 35 percent increase in new home value over 2014. In addition, seven new businesses opened, generating jobs and enhancing services and quality of life in Wyoming.

New Businesses in 2015:

Tēla Bar + Kitchen – a gastro-pub style restaurant located at 1212 Springfield Pike opened in July 2015. (See the feature story on page 6.)

The Healing Space of Cincinnati – offering holistic health services, 217 Wyoming Avenue, opened in the Presbyterian Church Manse in March 2015.

Destine's Du Jour, located at 514 Wyoming Avenue, is a children's clothing consignment shop.

Kent Gallery, located at 415 Wyoming Avenue, specializes in paintings by artists Joanie Kent and Steve Schutz.

State Farm Insurance – Agent Nathan Enger, opened at 1210 Springfield Pike.

W5 Design, located at 515 Wyoming Avenue, is a new firm specializing in commercial interior design and architecture for the healthcare industry.

Wendy Magee Photography, located at 515 Wyoming Avenue #2, specializes in child, newborn, family, and high school portraits.

New Construction in 2015:

Wyoming Glen – Development at the north end of Springfield Pike, three new single-family home building permits were issued, and three more are under construction.

Scattered Site Residential Development – Permits were issued for three homes: two on Reily Road and one on Compton Ridge Drive. Two existing homes were demolished and replaced and one was built on a newly created lot.

Property Enhancements in 2015:

622 Grove Avenue – this property had been targeted by the City in 2009 for re-development and was purchased at the direction of City Council with that intent. After a contractor purchased the home and made \$90,000 in upgrades, it was sold in 2015 to a homeowner.

720 Oak Avenue – the City purchased this blighted home in 2015 with the intent to demolish it and incorporate the property into the adjacent municipal complex as green space.

Kattelmann Property – this 3-acre parcel located adjacent to the Recreation Center and along Springfield Pike was purchased in 2015 with the intent to clear it of structures and incorporate the acreage into the City's recreation complex.

Valley Temple – an extensive renovation and 2,000-square-foot addition were completed at the synagogue located on Springfield Pike.

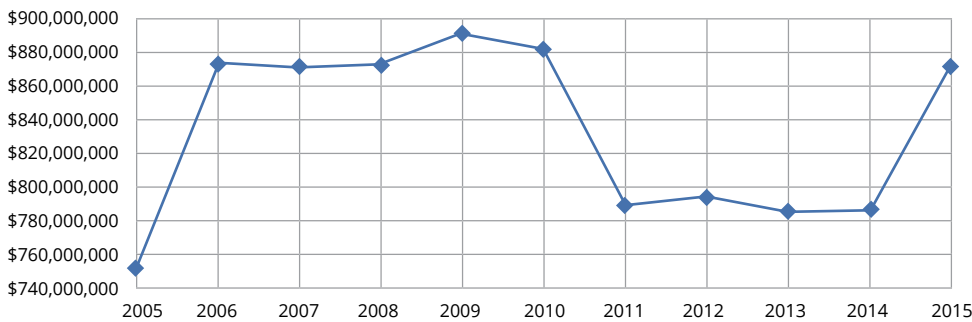
Several new homes are under construction on private lots.





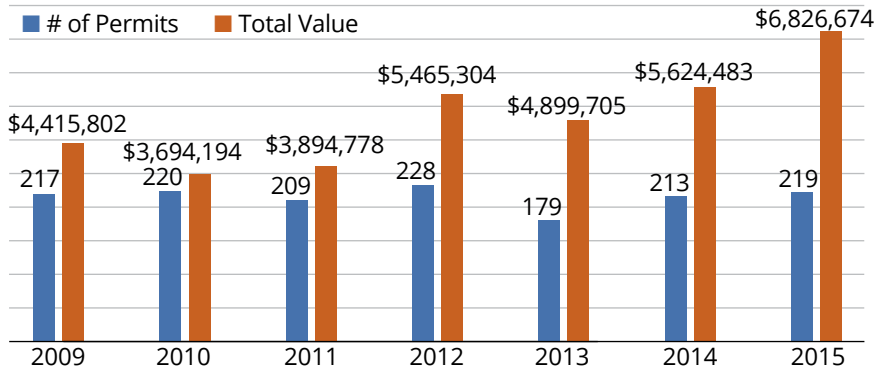
Sidewalk maintenance was enhanced by using cost-saving techniques.

Total Wyoming Property Valuation 2005-2015 (Per Hamilton County Auditor)



The Total Wyoming Property Valuation 2005-2015 graph shows how the market value of all properties in Wyoming, as determined by the Hamilton County Auditor, has changed over the last decade. Of note is the significant upturn in market value in 2015, a recovery from the effects of the 2008 recession seen in property value losses during 2010.

Wyoming Residential Permit Data 2009-2015



This graph shows the main types of residential permits and the value of the work, for one, two, and three-family residential properties. These permits include new residences, additions, alterations, accessory structures, repairs, replacements, demolitions, swimming pools, and fences. Though the number of these permits has remained relatively even year-over-year, the rise in value of the work points primarily to an increase in the number and value of new homes constructed beginning in 2012 and continuing through 2015.



Right: Destine's Du Jour on Wyoming Ave. was one of several new businesses to open.

Did You Know...

- The Community Development Department has two full-time and one part-time staff member and one contract building official.
- The 2015 Wyoming real estate market produced more home sales (141) than in all but one year since 2005.
- New home value in Wyoming increased 35 percent in 2015.
- Over 100 property maintenance cases were handled by the Community Development Department, resulting in improvements to the properties.
- The City tested a new method of sidewalk repair by grinding trip hazards and saving 50 percent of replacement cost.
- More than 214 blocks of sidewalk were replaced or repaired.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.



City Nets Savings on Operating Expenses and Maintains Top Bond Rating

The topic of government spending continues to draw national attention as taxpayers demand ever more accountability for their hard-earned dollars. The Customer Service & Finance Department takes its role as steward of residents' tax money seriously. Careful budgeting and financial management made it possible for the City to accomplish an 11 percent savings on operating expenses in 2015, while maintaining excellent services and achieving a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's, the highest rating obtainable.

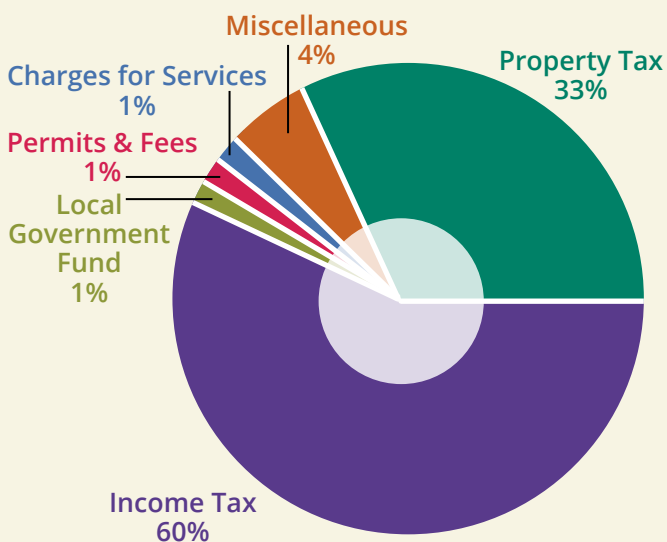
After an income tax increase last year from 0.8 to 1.0 percent due to a loss of state tax revenue, the City put strategies in place to ensure that each department functioned within budget while also enabling funding for capital improvements. Sound management practices that included streamlined staffing, tighter controls on nonessential spending and careful budgeting of capital improvements, enabled the City to achieve this strong financial performance.

Making Use of Grants to Maximize City Spending Efficiency

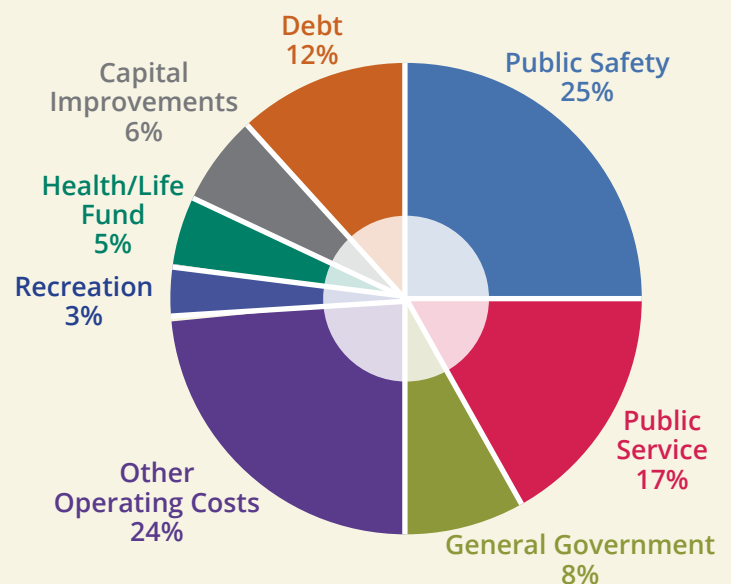
The Capital Improvement Plan funding is an example of how City administration achieves excellent service without increasing spending. In 2015, the City found opportunities to use grants and zero-interest loans to maximize tax dollars. This enabled the completion of several projects that enhanced our community without additional spending. Examples of such projects include road repairs on Worthington and Wilmuth Avenues, the bank stabilization project on the Mill Creek, and the Springfield Pike engineering project.

Another example of effective cost management is the City's electronic communication with residents. Tools such as social media and email have allowed the City to increase its level of communication while saving money at the same time.

2015 Revenues



2015 Expenditures



Capital improvement spending increased over \$700,000 in 2015 compared to 2014. The increase in the income tax rate allowed funding for projects such as sidewalk repairs and the Springfield Pike engineering project. Also, a portion was reserved for the Recreation Center improvements.



Through careful budgeting and spending, Wyoming residents continue to enjoy the many activities and services offered by the City.



A friendly City employee is available to help with residents' questions at the City offices, 800 Oak Avenue.

2015 Cost Breakdown of an Average Utility Bill



The City absorbs the total cost of a property owner's sanitation expense. The sewer portion of the bill is collected by the City and distributed to MSD, who provides the service.

Did You Know...

- The City received a total of \$541,685.79 in grant funds in 2015 from federal, state, foundation, and county sources.
- Grant funding enables the City to undertake large projects, such as infrastructure and engineering improvements, without adding costs to taxpayers.
- The City has attracted nearly 1,700 followers on Nextdoor, nextdoor.com
- The City's Facebook page has more than 2,500 fans from 27 different countries.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.

Connect With Us

Go to wyomingohio.gov and click the links to be part of the City's social media network.



Sign up for the City's emergency alert notification system.



Protecting Our Valuable Water Resources is a Top Priority

Wyoming residents enjoy some of the highest quality water in the region sourced from a treasured asset – the Mill Creek Aquifer. Wyoming Water Works diligently protects this valuable water resource. The goal is to ensure that residents have uninterrupted access to high quality water through efficient equipment upgrades and environmental protection projects that sustain the Mill Creek Aquifer in a healthy state.

A project that exemplified this commitment to the aquifer was the West Fork Mill Creek Steambank Stabilization Project. In 2015, Wyoming Water Works obtained a \$112,580 grant from the Ohio EPA to apply Natural Channel Design principles to the Mill Creek stream flow through Wyoming. This project used bioengineered bank treatments and strategic in-stream structures to improve water quality. The project helped protect Wyoming's lime sludge settling ponds by stabilizing the south bank of

the West Fork. It also made the stream more attractive to wildlife by enhancing its aesthetic and recreational appeal. Native species were planted along the streambank and in the adjacent vicinity. This 2015 project complements last year's more extensive West Fork Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project immediately upstream, which also involved replacing honeysuckle and other invasive species with native ones.

Upgrades to Ensure Quality Maintenance

In addition, Wyoming Water Works added equipment upgrades to ensure efficient service. These included:

- A new water truck that better organizes equipment and supplies;
- New software that uses digital mapping and inventory control to help monitor the age and performance of water delivery apparatus.



School children tour the Wyoming Water Plant.



Hydrants are flushed every spring.



Maintaining the valuable Mill Creek is an important priority for the City.



Did You Know...

- Water consumption has declined in the community over the past decade due to conservation efforts, helping to replenish the Mill Creek Aquifer.
- The City maintains more than 43 miles of water mains, plus three storage tanks and three pumping stations.
- In 2015, Wyoming residents used an average of 76 gallons of water per day per person.
- In 2015, Wyoming water cost less than a penny/gallon (0.7¢), which compares to gas at \$2.11/gallon and to milk at \$2.69/gallon.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.

Left:

The West Fork Mill Creek Streambank Stabilization Project helps ensure water quality for the City.

Participants in a City tour of the Mill Creek view environmental stewardship efforts along the banks. The creek is an important City resource.

Taking Care of City Infrastructure 24/7

The Public Works Department takes pride when you don't have to think about public works. That means you can go about your day without a worry about your roads, urban forest, city parks, solid waste, and even the flowers that decorate the street signs. Paving roads, maintaining storm water systems, and plowing snow are important for making everyday life run smoothly for more than 8,000 residents in Wyoming. It is the Public Works team's goal to ensure that these services operate flawlessly 24/7 for every household.

An important project completed by Public Works in 2015 was curb replacement and street paving on both Wilmuth and Worthington Avenues.



Leaf removal in the fall yields valuable leaf mulch in the spring.



A Public Works crew repairs a water main break.

"Thank you for all the hard work and long hours you put in to plow the streets in Wyoming. We think you do a great job!"

– the Haid family

"We feel so lucky to live in a community that does such a great job with keeping the roads safe."

– the Erickson family

"I've lived in several places around the region and the country and the City of Wyoming's public (works) department is one of the best."

— Dan Dressman, resident and executive director of the Homebuilders Association of Greater Cincinnati

Thanks for a Job Well Done

The winter of 2015 was one of the snowiest in recent memory. William Haid, a kindergartener at Vermont Elementary School, noticed that Wyoming's Public Works snow plow crews worked long hours to ensure that the streets were cleared and he wanted to show them his appreciation.

"He loves the snow," says William's mom, Lynn Haid. "He calls shoveling our driveway 'snow plowing.' That's why I think he especially noticed the great job the City crews were doing to clear the roads."

To express his thanks for a job that often goes unrecognized, William baked brownies with his mom and drew a special picture of the snow plow crews at work to take to the Public Works Department.

"He noticed what all the rest of us already know," says his mom. "You can tell when you've arrived back in Wyoming because the streets are clear. As soon as you drive past our borders, they're not. Even at his young age, William knew that we were lucky to have a dedicated crew plowing our roads."



William Haid, 6, delivers a thank you picture and some well-deserved brownies to the City's snow plow drivers in 2015. From left, the drivers are Kevin Lewallen, Bob Siefert and Jack Burkhart.



Did You Know...

- The City recycled more than 28 percent of the waste generated, receiving the "Best City Recycling Rate Award" from the Hamilton County Solid Waste District.
- The Public Works Department plowed snow from more than 250 miles of road in 2015.
- The street improvements on Worthington and Wilmuth were funded with a zero percent interest loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission.
- The City has received a grant and a zero percent interest loan that will fund 90 percent of the design costs for the proposed Springfield Pike Project.
- Wyoming has been recognized as a Tree City USA for the 21st consecutive year and received the first Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Public Works completed street maintenance and/or asphalt sealing on or about 12 lane miles of City streets.

For more information, go to wyomingohio.gov.

Wyoming's snow plow crews are legendary.



The Fruechtemeyer family, Scott, Kelly, Sam, Molly, and dog, Ruby, moved to Wyoming in 2015.



Sam, a student at Wyoming Middle School, poses with holiday ice carvings at Light Up Wyoming festivities.



Molly gets ready for the annual Howling Pooch Parade with the family dog, Ruby.

Family Finds “Connection with Community” In Wyoming

Scott and Kelly Fruechtemeyer first talked about moving to Wyoming while still living in Atlanta shortly after they were married. Although it took over a dozen years and a move from another Cincinnati suburb, Kelly says Wyoming has felt like the home town they always wanted from the first days she and her family moved in late summer 2015.

“Scott is from Blue Ash and he knew about Wyoming and had heard about the schools here,” she says.

While schools were an important consideration for the young family – with son Sam, 12, and daughter, Molly, 10, still looking at many school years ahead – Kelly says that the Wyoming community offers so much more than just a good school experience.

“We wanted to feel a connection with a community,” she says. “We have found that here. This is a small town, but with the sophistication of a big city. People are friendly and welcoming.”

The Fruechtemeyers moved to Wyoming from a large northern Cincinnati suburb, which although highly regarded, did not offer the sense of belonging and neighborly warmth that Wyoming does, says Kelly, who grew up in Macon, Georgia.

“Within weeks of moving here I had met and gotten to know my neighbors,” she says. “My kids made friends quickly with the nearby kids. We were immediately embraced by all the people around us. That was not the case in the community where we came from.”

Kelly says she and her family have been impressed with the number of social and civic events the City organizes for people of all ages, as well as with the charm of the village business district and with the sense of pride that people who live here feel in their community. They have enjoyed social events with Newcomers Club and civic events such as Light Up Wyoming, an annual holiday happening featuring luminaries throughout the City, and festive activities at the Wyoming Civic Center.

“I have yet to hear one negative comment from anyone about Wyoming. There is a real sense of community spirit.”

Kelly says it was a big decision to make the leap and move out of a home and community they had invested 11 years in, but it has been a decision she has not regretted.

“My daughter was telling me the other day that she feels like we’ve lived here forever,” Kelly says of their new home in Wyoming. “I agreed. I think we all feel like this is a good place to live our lives.”

City Achieves Goals Set By Master Plan

For a full description, please go to wyomingohio.gov for more information



The City utilized a comprehensive community engagement process in 2015 to solicit input about the future of the Civic Center. This process will be expanded as the City updates the Wyoming Master Plan. At left is a group of Wyoming architects and designers who volunteered their expertise to help develop ideas for the Civic Center.

The City attained many of its goals from the 2007 Master Plan in 2015. Here are some highlights.

Adjacent Jurisdictional Cooperation

- Police partnership with Hamilton County SWAT Team
- Hosted “team building” meeting with Woodlawn City Administration
- Established joint firefighter training with nearby municipalities
- Shared a contract with Wyoming Schools for IT staff and fleet maintenance
- Partnered with Springfield Township on decorating expenses for social event
- Worked with Village of Woodlawn to relocate bus stop along Springfield Pike

Neighborhood Preservation and Improvement

- Installed electronic scoreboard at Recreation Center turf field
- Received a grant from state for next phase of hike/bike trail
- Renovations underway at Recreation Center
- Resurfaced A-Field tennis courts to create pickleball courts
- Received a grant to build bocce ball court
- Repainted bicycle sharrows

Historic Preservation

- Documented historic properties and began updating state forms for historic resources survey

Ecological Stewardship and Sustainability

- Planted more “street trees”
- Fostered the removal of invasive honeysuckle shrubs
- Piloted storm water infrastructure projects
- Restored a portion of the West Fork Mill Creek streambank
- Approved an ordinance to allow private bee keeping
- Approved an ordinance allowing expanded use of residential solar panels
- Partnered with Wyoming Schools and Goodwill to recycle clothing

Zones of Potential Change

- Completed professional survey and community forums to determine future of Civic Center property
- Opening of Tēla Bar + Kitchen
- Entered agreement with Potter Hill Homes to develop vacant lot into single family home
- Negotiated new lease to retain Spring Valley Bank and parking lot

Visual Resources

- Partnered with Trowel and Error Garden Club for the stonework and the restoration of the fountain at Centennial Park
- Established a program to promote the tree canopy over City rights-of-way
- Secured a grant to educate youth on pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Continued work to fund a sidewalk along Compton Road
- Worked with Duke Energy to evaluate tree trimming

Managed Fiscal Responsibility

- Received a grant and zero interest loan for project to engineer Springfield Pike
- Received several grants for various projects
- Received a state grant for EMS supplies
- Solicited donations for fire truck improvements
- Received county funds for demolition of buildings to improve Recreation Center property

Get Involved! Help Guide Your City's Future

The process to update the Wyoming Master Plan has begun, and the Steering Committee will soon be reaching out for community participation. Citizen input is key to understanding the goals and needs of the community. Input will likely be solicited in many forms, potentially including citizen surveys, public forums, focus groups, and more. Please look for opportunities to participate as they are publicized in City communications throughout 2016.



City of
Wyoming

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The City does not exclude individuals with disabilities from participation or deny them the benefits of employment, programs, or City services.



City Council: *Left to right, first row: Pamela Kamm, Barry Porter, Mayor; Albert Delgado, Vice Mayor. Left to right, back row: Keith Desserich, Jenni McCauley, Jim O'Reilly, Jennifer Eismeier*

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Management Team: *Front row, left to right: Rusty Herzog, Police Chief; Lynn Tetley, City Manager; Jeremiah Caudill, Finance Director/Tax Commissioner. Middle row, left to right: Mike Lippert, Assistant Public Works Director/Water Works Director; Megan Statt Blake, Assistant Community Development Director; Steve Owens, Fire Chief; Karen Zeilman, Director of Administration. Back row, left to right: Terry Huxel, Public Works Director; Rachel Leininger, Director of Recreation & Citizen Engagement; Terry Vanderman, Community Development Director.*

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Wyoming, OH 45215

Wyoming Recreation Center
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Cincinnati, OH 45215